

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

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S E C R E T STATE 263206

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE: GERMAN ACCEPTANCE

1. GERMAN EMBASSY MINISTER LAHUSEN NOVEMBER 27 CALLED ON ACTING DIRECTOR ACDA ZURHELLEN UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO GIVE FRG'S FORMAL RESPONSE TO US PROPOSAL OF CONFERENCE OF KEY NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS. LAHUSEN SAID FRG AGREES ON DESIRABILITY OF CONFERENCE AND HOPED THAT IT COULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. LAHUSEN NOTED FRG WOULD FAVOR INCLUSION OF NETHERLANDS IN CONFERENCE SINCE IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH FRG AND UK IN TRIPARTITE CENTRIFUGE PROJECT.

3. FRG IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED, SAID LAHUSEN, IN SEVERAL BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ON NUCLEAR
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BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION. PROVIDED CONFERENCE IS HELD IN NEAR FUTURE FRG FELT ITS BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT AFFECT ITS ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE. IF CONFERENCE WERE TO BE GREATLY DELAYED, HOWEVER, FRG WOULD HAVE TO RESERVE ITS POSITION ON WHOLE QUESTION OF CONFERENCE. MOREOVER, FRG FELT IT INDISPENSABLE THAT ALL THOSE INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPATE. FRG WOULD HAVE AGAIN TO RESERVE ITS POSITION TOWARDS CONFERENCE IF ONE OR MORE INVITEES DID NOT ATTEND. HE ASKED WHAT REACTIONS WE HAD HAD.

4. ZURHELLEN REPLIED US HAD HAD ACCEPTANCES FROM UK AND CANADA. USSR AND JAPAN HAD NOT YET GIVEN FORMAL RESPONSE BUT THEIR ATTITUDES HAD BEEN GENERALLY AFFIRMATIVE. FRANCE HAD ALSO NOT GIVEN FORMAL RESPONSE BUT WE AGREED PARTICIPATION BY ALL INVITEES WAS HIGHLY IMPORTANT AND WERE CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH FRANCE.

5. LAHUSEN WAS UNABLE TO AMPLIFY HIS INSTRUCTIONS AS TO HOW LONG A DELAY IN CONFERENCE WOULD BE REGARDED BY FRG AS REQUIRING RECONSIDERATION OF ITS POSITION. ZURHELLEN NOTED WE HAD NOT ASKED INVITEES TO SUSPEND WHATEVER BILATERAL TALKS THEY MIGHT BE HAVING WITH OTHERS, BUT HOPED THAT, PENDING SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE, ANY SUCH TALKS WOULD REFLECT THE MUTUAL CONCERN EMBODIED IN OUR PROPOSAL THAT NO STEPS BE TAKEN WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE CAPABILITY.

6. REGARDING NETHERLANDS ZURHELLEN NOTED THAT FRG HAD RECENTLY RAISED QUESTION IN BONN AS TO WHETHER THEY COULD DISCUSS SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE PROPOSAL WITH DUTCH. US REPLY HAD BEEN THAT THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO KEEPING DUTCH INFORMED PROVIDED THIS WAS DONE IN HIGH LEVEL WAY PRESERVING SENSITIVITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF OUR PROPOSALS. WHILE USG UNDERSTOOD REASON WHY FRG WOULD LIKE TO SEE NETHERLANDS INCLUDED IN CONFERENCE, THERE WAS DIFFICULTY IN DRAWING LINE AND WE HOPED THAT GERMAN ACTION IN KEEPING NETHERLANDS INFORMED WOULD SUFFICE.

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